



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“OPERATION FALCON-EAST ST. LOUIS ROUNDS UP 190 METRO EAST FUGITIVES”

EAST ST. LOUIS, IL -- Deputy United States Marshals once again teamed up with scores of fellow federal, state, and local law enforcement officers to conduct one of the largest ever round-ups of fugitive violent felons, sexual offenders, and individuals associated with gang activity in the Metro East area. The round-up, dubbed Operation Falcon-East St. Louis, began on Sunday, July 8 and concluded on Saturday, July 14. During this period, Deputy Marshals and their fellow task force members arrested 190 felony fugitives. That number included 6 sex offenders, 11 gang members, and 107 drug-related offenders. Three of the fugitives arrested were wanted for questioning in relation to homicides in the Centreville area. Also, 13 firearms of varying types were taken off the streets along with approximately 350 grams of marijuana and 18 grams of crack cocaine.

Agencies participating with the U.S. Marshals Service in Operation Falcon-East St. Louis included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Secret Service, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Defense, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Corrections, Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southern Illinois; St. Clair, Madison, Williamson, Jackson, Jefferson, and Alexander County Sheriff's Departments; Police Departments in East St. Louis, Granite City, Pontoon Beach, Fairview Heights, O'Fallon, Belleville, Centreville, Venice, Alton, Collinsville, Mt. Vernon, Carbondale, Murphysboro, Marion, and Crainville.

Don Slazinik, United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, expressed his deep gratitude to officers from all of the agencies and departments that participated in Operation Falcon-East St. Louis. "This is once again an example of how well law enforcement agencies can work together to take action and protect the public. I am always proud of how hard these officers from all types of agencies work to get bad people off the streets and make our neighborhoods a safer place to live."